THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) A study carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board in association with the National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi, in March-April, 2001 indicated that some of the fire crackers were not complying with the noise standards as notified *vide* GSR 682(E), October 5, 1999.

(b) Department of Explosives has been directed to restrict the manufacture and sale of fire crackers exceeding the notified noise standards.

Pollution by Garbage Carrying Vehicles

2011. SHRI RAJU PARMAR :

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether according to the Municipal Solid-waste Management Regulations formulated under the Environment Protection Act, 1998, all the garbage trucks/vehicles transporting the garbage from one spot to another are required to be fully covered;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not adhering to the above regulations by the civic bodies like MCD, NDMC, and DDA;

(c) whether any case of negligence has been brought to the notice of Government during the last six months; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken against the authorities?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) As per the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, formulated under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, vehicle for transportation of wastes shall be covered.

(b) The vehicles currently used by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and Delhi Cantonment Board are not designed to comply with the Rules. MCD is in the process of purchase of specially designed vehicles to comply with the Rules. On a temporary basis, all the old vehicles are attached with sheets made of tarpaulin or thick jute material to cover the wastes during transportation. However, about one-third of MCD vehicles observed during monitoring by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) were not covered.

Most of the vehicles used by the New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) are designed with covers and hence comply with the Rules.

(c) and (d) No case of negligence has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Environment and Forests—However, as per information provided by MCD, disciplinary action against two officials has been initiated for default and not covering the truck in a proper manner.

Pollution Level in Delhi

2012. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :
SHRI RAJU PARMAR :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhites have been breathing more toxic air due to various factors, including Diwali festival;

(b) if so, what is the level of pollution recorded during the last four months in the National Capital Territory of Delhi; and

(c) what steps are being taken to control pollution, including noise level, in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring ambient air quality at 7 locations in Delhi. The concentration of Sulphur dioxide (SO_2) and Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) pollutants are well within the permissible limits. However, the concentration of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) exceeds the permissible limit at some times owing to the gaseous emissions from different sources, including bursting of crackers during Diwali.

(b) The level of pollution recorded during the last four months in the National Capital Territory of Delhi is as under :